

Date: February 11, 2014, 6:00 P.M.

Place: Room 111, Town Hall, 333 Washington Street, Brookline MA

Commissioners Attending: John Bain, Nancy O' Connor, Clara Batchelor, Antonia Bellalta, Jean Stameris, Daniel Lyons

Commissioners Absent: Jim Carroll

Staff: Erin Gallentine, Parks and Open Space Director, Lisa Paradis, Recreation Director, Jessica Zarni, Parks Administrative Assistant

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION	
Chairman's Welcome Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Bain opened the meeting and asked for changes or comments on the Park and Recreation Minutes from January 14, 2014 and the Design Review Committee Meeting for the Waldstein Playground minutes. 	The chair moved for approval of the minutes. Seconded by N. O'Connor. All in favor.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No public Comment. 	
2014 Golf Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T. Ellis presented the 2014 proposed golf fees. This year there are just a few changes. T. Ellis wanted to start off by discussing what goes into deciding when and how rates are changed. The first thing is looking for opportunities for additional rounds of golf, the second component is to keep rates affordable for the local community and make sure they remain competitive within the daily fee golf market and the third component is to consider the changes that have been implemented at the golf course. T. Ellis presented the current golf rates and the proposed golf rate changes (in red) on a slide. There are only 5 proposed rate changes. The first rate change is the weekday twilight rate and the second change is the twilight weekend rate. Both of these rates will be going up two dollars. One of the reasons for these changes is to differentiate between 9 hole rates for both weekday and weekend and there are a lot of people who are starting to come out late in that afternoon that want to play more than 9 holes. The weekend rate will be increased from forty one dollars to forty two dollars. The sundown rate will be going up one dollar. D. Lyons asked what time the twilight rate is started and T. Ellis responded with it does depend on the time of the year, 2 o'clock during the shoulder season and 3 o'clock in season. The final rate change is the 18-hole pull cart fee will go up one dollar. The next slide displayed the golf court market analysis, comparing Brookline to eight other courses within Boston and surrounding suburbs. T. Ellis stated that Brookline is in line with other market 	N. O'Connor moved to accept the new rates as presented by T. Ellis. Seconded by D. Lyons. All in favor.

	<p>competitors. He sees some opportunities and in the next few years where rates will be change more. T. Ellis compared some of the averages. D. Lyons asked when the senior rate was implemented and T. Ellis stated that is was implemented last year and has been well received. J. Bain and T. Ellis discussed some details regarding the junior rates, student daily rates and the sun down rates. T. Ellis discussed the winter rates. N. O'Connor and T. Ellis discussed how much money goes into producing a round of golf. L. Paradis clarified how much money goes into producing a round of golf compared to the revenue that is generated per round. J. Bain and T. Ellis discussed tournament rates. L. Paradis stated that holes one and two will be renovated and that will be a nice marketing tool because you can see these 2 holes from Hammond Street. L. Paradis stated that the golf course has caught up with past projects and now the big renovations issues can be addressed such as holes 1 and 2. J. Bain mentioned putting a canvas over the chain link fence. T. Ellis went into detail about the renovations that will be done to holes 1 and 2. N. O'Connor asked if rounds were up from last year, and T. Ellis responded with a yes but it depends on how it is looked at and went into details on how and why the rounds were up from last year.</p>	
<p>Annual Aquatics Division Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debra Cohen (Aquatics Director) and Mariana McCarthy (Assistant Aquatics Director) presented that annual aquatics division review. The theme of the presentation is about community. N. O'Connor and D. Cohen discussed the record boards. D. Cohen shared a few quotes and showed the commission some pictures of both the full time and part time staff in the pool. D. Cohen stated that it is a small staff but everyone's skill sets complement one another, they trust one another and over time they have mentored one another. There is a lot of longevity at the aquatics division, and everyone buys into the mission of Brookline Recreation and it shows in their work ethic. • The part time staff is far larger in the summer, but on average it is made up of 50 staffers that consist of lifeguards, swim instructors, specialty instructors, custodians, front desk staff and coaches. It is a very diverse staff, there are Brookline residents however there are college student from all over the country. There is a desire from those who grew up in this town to give back to their community. A lot of new hire are from referrals from the staff, there are a lot of siblings and all types of family members who make up the staff. • M. McCarthy has the staff trainings. Slides were shown of the In-service life guard trainings. These slides 	

	<p>showed an array of skills that need to be practiced to be ready for emergencies, but the focus is really on preventative life guarding. D. Cohen discussed instructor trainings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The participants with the aquatics division start out as water babies and stay right through up to swim camp. There is open door communication with the parents and students. There is a lot of feedback between the parents and students; however safety is their number one focus. This program is aimed towards keeping the students actively focused at all times, to have fun and meet there full potential. All of these components are instilled in every employee and start up in management and trickle down. There were pictures shown of students in swim class. • There is a large thriving swim team, generally around the 200 mark. This year the count is at 214 and it really is an awesome program. The ages of the swim team member range from 6-18. A lot of these students stay on to join the Brookline High swim team, and the older swimmers mentor the younger swimmers. Swim team pictures were shown. • The high school boys and girls swim teams were discussed. • There are a lot of resident and nonresidents who use the facility, but a bulk of the patrons are residents. There is an open door policy and always open communication. There are regulars and there are a lot of bonds formed at the pool and from that grows lifelong friendships. Most of the programs are open to nonresidents, but there are some programs that are Brookline resident only. The resident only programs consist of the Dolphin Swim Team, private swim lessons, heat emergencies and free Fridays. • The dedicated family areas have expanded beyond just the lesson pool to include the family changing rooms. These changing rooms are heavily used. The book area is very well appreciated and used. • The Dolphins' parent volunteers were discussed. These parents donate a lot of their time to this program. These parents help with the meetings, bake sales and help out so much with the swim meet support at both home and away games. The Dolphins' youth volunteers were discussed. • The aquatics division hosts a variety of special events that consist of seasonal open houses, joint ventures PT Company one house and the 2008 Olympic Bronze medalist Kim Vandenberg hosted a swim clinic. There is work being down to incorporate Physical therapy in the aquatics division. Pictures of Sunday open houses were shown, and there will be a Saturday open house on 	
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	<p>February 22nd, the Sunday ones have been successful so a Saturday one is being tested out. The swim clinic was discussed. M. McCarthy discussed the details of the swim clinic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rental clients were discussed. The rental clients are made up of Kayak Co-op, Team Envision and there are rentals for a variety of celebrations. • D. Cohen listed the partners that come to the pool. The list was composed of Brookline schools, Brookline Adult Education, Brookline SOMA, the Brookline Early Education program, Steps to Success and the Launch, ESY and Project Discovery. • The pool is community based. There is a variety of way that people can enjoy the facility, they can pay their daily fees and there are pass holders (Brookline residents and nonresidents. D. Cohen stated the Evelyn Kirrane Aquatics Center is a community based environment that you can come feel like part of the community and enjoy. • N. O'Connor asked about asked if there has been an increase in the numbers from last year. D. Cohen stated that the pass holders and student number have risen since last year. The Aquatics center is always trying to accommodate everyone, even if that means coordinating another time slot or expanding a class. N. O'Connor asked if there is a waiting lists for lessons, D. Cohen stated that there are wait lists but it varies. The people on the wait lists are currently in another class but would prefer another class for any number of reasons such as time and convenience, the number of people who are on the wait list and are not registered in any class are few and far between. D. Cohen discussed classes that have been expanded. N. O'Connor and D. Cohen discussed the hours the center is both open and closed. J. Bain and D. Cohen discussed the rates. J. Bain and D. Cohen discussed the surrounding pool facilities and how they compare to the Evelyn Kirrane Aquatics Center. L. Paradis and N. O'Connor discussed the capital items that are on the horizon. 	
Recreation Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Paradis discussed the skating rink. The staff is doing a great job and public skating continues to be popular. There were three Saturdays of lost hours due to weather, and to several hours of league and rental times. February vacation is a big week for the rink. M. Battite discussed when the rink will be closing and the bookings through March 9th, and mentioned that it has been a pleasure working with M. Bartlett and all the staff up at the rink. The weather and how the ice holds up was discussed. The revenue was discussed. M. Battite discussed the reserved time slots, the user groups and potential user 	

	<p>groups. D. Lyons and M. Battite discussed the cost recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soule is doing very well, and there have been a few staff transitions that are usual this time of year. • Recreation Therapy was discussed. • Brookline Special Olympics and the Heath School hosted “Game Day” on Saturday February 8th. • The LEADS program is in its second year, it is a job placement program. This program consists of 6 students between the ages of 19-23 and these students get internships, job trainings, job placements and skills. • Brookline Access Television changed there name and has rebranded themselves. This opened up a whole host of opportunities within the town and especially the Recreation Department in terms of Technology Camps. • Play It Forward and Climate Action Week were discussed. • Passport to fitness is going strong and a total of 70 passports have been sold. • The main event in January for the environmental educational division was the first annual Sustainability Day at the rink in collaboration Climate Action Brookline’s Climate Week. • Summer camp registration has begun and spots are filling up quickly. • Recreation has grown incredibly in basketball programs. • RAFT took advantage of the cold weather with a great trip to Pats Peak where the teens spent a full day in the snow. Dodge Ball nights are going incredible and they are very popular. • L. Paradis passed out the new Environmental Education Brochure. These brochures are done for all of Recreation’s divisions and they area done in house. • There are lots of partnership meetings happening, and L. Paradis is looking forward to the summer lunch program again this year, and L. Paradis wanted to share with everyone that M. Battite and she attended the Wegmans’s community event. L. Paradis stated that it was a great event, and feels that the Town will have a great partnership with them. L. Paradis and the Commission discussed the Wegman’s organization. 	
Park and Open Space Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guard rails and the ornamental fence are in for Billy Ward Playground. The hand rails have been fabricated, but are not yet installed. The contractor has to wait for the weather to be warm enough to pour the concrete footings. E. Gallentine asked the Commissioners to think about what they would like to do for a late spring celebration opening. The work to date looks amazing, but it has been slow going. • Eliot and Waldstein Playground renovation projects will 	

	<p>both be going out to bid at the end of the month. E. Gallentine is hoping for competitive bids. E. Gallentine reached out to the Friends of Brookline Skating to let them now that the projects are out to bid, and asked them to let her know if they were still interested in fundraising for a skate spot and they sounded very enthusiastic. N. O'Connor and E. Gallentine discussed what would happen with the skate spot as an add alternate if the funds were raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction for Fisher Hill Reservoir Park is under way. Tree removal is complete and now they are now removing stumps and grubbing. A request for a proposal is being put together for the trees that are being purchased directly from the wholesaler, this was proposed as a cost saving measure. A. Bellalta stated that the site looks great; E. Gallentine has a lot of interaction with the abutters for the project. The architecture and renovation of the Gate House is a separate contract that needs to go out in April. There has been a lot of time spent on an analysis for this project. E. Gallentine and C. Batchelor discussed who was doing the drawings and if it was part of the original contract. There is about four hundred thousand dollars for this restoration effort, E. Gallentine stated that this is something everyone should be proud of since originally the restoration amount started at one hundred thousand. E. Gallentine discussed the stabilization and preservation priorities that make up the project. E. Gallentine is thinking about fifty thousand towards an MHC Grant for windows and doors, E. Gallentine believes this would make an incredible statement in the front of the park and truly complete the promenade. The construction to date is going very well. D. Lyons asked if the building will be secure, and E. Gallentine responded with a yes. E. Gallentine stated that there will be electrical on the inside, and this will be available for future use. • Fisher Ave is being reconstructed at the same time. E. Gallentine talked to the Director of Engineering and asked them to wait on the rebuilding of the roadway, which allowed an opportunity for the Fisher Hill Neighborhood Association to think about what they wanted and then they submitted a request for a traffic calming study. This process kicked off a few public meetings to discuss putting in new sidewalks, new tree planting, and new crosswalks. N. O'Connor and E. Gallentine discussed the time frame of this work. E. Gallentine stated that ultimately the whole street will have new LED lights and they are phasing that in over 4 years. A. Bellalta and E. Gallentine discussed light fixtures. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route 9 crossing is on hold because the Town is waiting for a contract for the DCR grant in order to award an extra work order for the consultant to move into phase 2, which is the construction bid document. The Town has worked with the Planning Department to reallocate CDBG funding to match the grant funding. E. Gallentine stated that it is a pedestrian activated crossing signal that will connect Olmsted Park to the Riverway. • E. Gallentine discussed the upcoming project to rebuild the Larz Anderson Park roadway and also one of the walls abutting the former Park Maintenance Yard. N. O'Connor asked if we had the funds available, and E. Gallentine responded with a yes. E. Gallentine will start to put together subcommittee meeting for signage for the rules and regulations. E. Gallentine wants everyone to be comfortable with the rules and regulations. J. Bain asked if there were any considerations of putting a post and rail in areas where no one should be parking, E. Gallentine stated that it is good question to raise during the design process. E. Gallentine shared her concerns with parking in that area when kids go sledding in the winter season. • The whole budgets process is starting soon, both operating and capital. • The Commission discussed the letter written by B. Schechter to the Park & Recreation Commission regarding the renaming of Cypress Playground to Hennessey Field. E. Gallentine shared with the commission the request from J. Kendrick be added onto the March Agenda. J. Bain suggested that the Commission needs to take a look at the Park and Recreation criteria for the renaming process and if it could be adjusted. J. Bain discussed the issue of the process that whatever Park and Recreation decides the Naming Committee will follow, which eliminates step two in the process and the idea of possibly providing just a recommendation and or both recommendation and vote to the Naming Committee on behalf of the Park and Recreation Commission either for or against. The Park & Recreation Guidelines were discussed amongst the Commissioners as well as elements of last month's meeting regarding the renaming of Hennessey Field. E. Gallentine stated that the process for renaming a major feature or element of a park is the same as renaming the park as a whole, it all falls under all the same guidelines. 	
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Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other business. 	
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N. O'Connor moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by J. Bain. All in favor. 	

Next Meeting: March 11, 2014 Location: Town Hall Rm. 111

A true record

Attest Jessica Zarni

Date: 2/11/2014